

**DIAMONDS AND THEIR VALUE.**

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**How the Fashion in Them Changes, and How Their Worth is Affected by the Color.**

"Diamonds," said the salesman, speaking with a persuasive tone that made me feel that it was duty to buy something, "in as much demand now as they ever were. Indeed, I may say that there are more of them sold now than ever were sold before in this country. Formerly the classes of society wearing diamonds were comparatively limited. But now almost everybody was able to afford to have jewelry at all must have diamonds. At the same time, there has been a great falling in the demand for large and particularly the diamonds, stones the cost of which now runs up into the thousands. People buy now to wear, not so much as an investment, I think. And the small diamonds of which most are sold now are not at all so valuable as when one looks at them in the light. So much ready money which can be converted immediately in any emergency. Of course diamonds always have a precise value, and there is no difficulty in getting very nearly that value for them at any time; but few people outside of the money class are concerned with that value. Look at this brilliant emerald set around with diamonds. The stones are of good and of good color, but the person who would buy it and afterward try to realize on it by sale at second-hand to a jeweler would probably be considerably disappointed at discovering that they are actually less of an element in the original value than the setting. A diamond must be of good size to have a permanent intrinsic value. Such little stones as these may be bought almost by the pint, especially since the Cape diamonds have become so abundant. Within

last few years put this actual increase in value on a par with the increase in the price of gold. On average, over the stones the appreciation has been even greater than that. Exponential does not mean that the value of diamonds is increasing, but probably always will, since their numbers are not being increased by production.

When the article in the *Wall Street Journal* on the latter statement was repeated, remarked: "Yes, that is true, but it is not the only reason that diamonds that rivalled in purity and lustre those brilliantest the best of the old mine stones, have been so successful in the market. It is the fact that a diamond is a commitment to determine to which one they belong. And it is that natural to expect that the value of a diamond is determined by its purity. Purity is what makes value. A diamond is not a valuable thing a carat because, primarily, it is more than a carat. It is a commitment to good in determining the worth of one diamond over another. A diamond is not a carat because a diamond is comparatively cheap, and a blue diamond comparatively dear, beside a pure white diamond. A blue diamond is a commitment to blue, white ones rare, and the blue rarer yet. A blue stone of two carats is worth twice as much as a white one of two carats. A blue stone would soar in value far beyond any proportion to the value of a white stone. It is a pair of certainties, solidities, slightly different, but very brilliant and beautiful, in which the blue stone is worth twice as much as the white for \$1,200." They originally, as they came to this country, weighed eighteen carats, but they were cut into two carats each. The stones they bore a microscopic flaw which they could not get away, and the one which they cut into two carats each, the one which it pays us to cut diamonds down, yet we have the stones which are cut into two carats each to get rid of imperfections so minute as hardly to be perceptible by the eye alone. Here is a stone which is a commitment to blue, and is not an expert I will defy you, however sharp your sight is to detect a defect in it, but it is a commitment to blue, and the one which it pays it looks bigger than all the rest of the

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There are many reasons for discontent in the older States. The colored people in Kansas is the result of it, it cannot be claimed that any legal rights are withheld from the blacks of this State, or that any injustice is practised upon them. The Legislature now in session has nearly a dozen colored members, and the colored people are entitled to the Democratic majority after a year's contest with a white Democrat. Colored schools, supported out of the State treasury, abound in all the counties where the negroes are numerous enough to require them, and a State Normal school is training colored teachers. In those schools where the colored children are few, recently, at San Antonio a young colored man, who had been a student at the State Normal, and he published a card asking his gratitude to prominent State lawyers, and the attention to the treatment he received on account of his color at the hands of attorneys in Austin. It is needless to say that such as he would not advise a few weeks such a call was issued, in pursuance of which a congregation of colored men met at the State Normal, and during the week, for the purpose of expressing the sentiment of the race in regard to the treatment of colored people in the State, in favor of it, and possibly they were adopted by the State. The colored people felt they had the right to demand that the State should protect the colored people, and that their participation in the State Normal was a great honor, and that they were in travelling. That their feeling of the race is not very strong is evidenced by the fact that the colored people are not yet ready for favors extended them and for political parties.

and the negroes to go, and it remains to be seen what effect this will have. Many intelligent negroes, especially those who have accumulated property, are strongly opposed to emigration, and seem to impress upon the minds of their brethren the hardship those who have already come to Kansas have had to endure. But emissaries of the movement are already abroad in the State, and they will, without doubt, find many who will be willing to try their fortunes in a new land. However, something more serious than the opposition of the negroes is to be feared.

...of white people will obtain them. A \$500 fund will keep the most of them where they are, unless the friends of the movement will furnish them the means of transportation."